

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 5, 10, 13, 14, and 17-21 are amended, and claim 22 is added. Claims 1, 13, 17, 20, and 21 independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Foreign Priority Claim

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Drawings

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has accepted the drawings.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101, and 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as failing to recite a positive functional interrelationship between the medium and the activities recited. Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent

claim 20 has been amended to recite a method by which a program causes a computer to execute a predetermined procedure, comprising the steps of:

generating order information regarding image data to be printed, said order information including at least said image data to be printed, information indicating a print size of said image data, and information indicating a print quantity of said image data;

reading access information indicating at least a specific photograph processing agency available to access and an order reception server installed in said specific photographic processing agency, and utilized for directly accessing said order reception server; and

transferring the order information to said order reception server installed in said specific photograph processing agency by directly accessing the order reception server according to said access information.

In addition, dependent claim 21 is rewritten in independent form to recite a combination of elements directed to a computer readable medium, comprising:

an access information area recorded with access information indicating at least a specific photograph processing agency available to access and an order reception server installed in said specific photograph processing agency, and utilized for directly accessing said order reception server; and

a program area recorded with a program causing a computer to execute procedures for generating order information regarding image data to be printed, said order information including at least said image data to be printed, information indicating a print size of said image data, and information indicating a print quality of said image data, reading said access

information, and transferring the order information to said order reception server installed in said specific photograph processing agency by directly accessing the order reception server according to said access information.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, recite a positive functional interrelationship between the medium and the activities recited, and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 6-13, 15-18, and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nardozzi et al. (U.S.6,636,837) in view of Jebens et al. (U.S. 6,321,231); and claims 3-5, 14, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nardozzi et al. (U.S.6,636,837) in view of Jebens et al. (U.S. 6,321,231) in view of Fredlund et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejections is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a print order system including *inter alia*

order reception servers enabling reception of order information regarding image data via a network and installed respectively in a plurality of photograph processing agencies each having a photographic printer for printing the image data; and

an order terminal connected to each of the order reception servers in the plurality of photograph processing agencies via the network.

In addition, independent claim 13 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a printing system including *inter alia*

wherein the order reception server transfers the order information to another order reception server in another photographic agency.

In addition, independent claim 17 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a order terminal including *inter alia*

the order terminal being connected to each of a plurality of order reception servers in a plurality of other photographic processing agencies via a network.

Further, independent claim 20 has been amended to recite a combination of steps in a method for causing a program in a computer to execute a predetermined procedure, including *inter alia*

reading access information indicating at least a specific photograph processing agency available to access and an order reception server installed in said specific photographic processing agency, and utilized for directly accessing said order reception server; and

transferring the order information to said order reception server installed in said specific photograph processing agency by directly accessing the order reception server according to said access information.

Still further, independent claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form to recite a combination of elements in a computer-readable recording medium, including *inter alia*

transferring the order information to said order reception server installed in said specific photograph processing agency by directly accessing the order reception server according to said access information.

Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements/steps as set forth in each of independent claims 1, 13, 17, 20, and 21 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nardoizzi et al. and Jebens et al.

First of all, the Examiner concedes that states that Nardoizzi et al. does not explicitly disclose a plurality of photographic agencies.

The Examiner, however, asserts that Jebens et al. teaches a plurality of photographic agencies (jobber) (col. 22, lines 24-28).

Regarding the jobbers/suppliers 16 disclosed in Jebens et al., the Applicants respectfully submit that they do not correspond to the plural photographic processing agencies of the present invention. Because in the system provided by Jebens et al., the host server 10 is installed in neither the jobbers nor the suppliers 16. Further, the provider server 14 is installed in neither jobbers nor suppliers 16. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Jebens et al. does not teach or suggest "order reception servers enabling reception of order information regarding image data via a network and installed respectively in a plurality of photograph processing agencies each having a photographic printer for printing the image data." Also, the jobbers/suppliers 16 of Jebens et al. are out of the scope of the assumption that each has a host server or a provider server installed therein. Therefore, it is not proper to combine the server 39 of Nardoizzi et al. with the jobbers/suppliers 16 of Jebens et al.

While not used in the rejection of claims 1, 13, 17, 20, and 21, the Fredlund et al. document does not make up for the deficiencies of Nardozzi et al. and Jebens et al. with regard to the subject matter of claims 1, 13, 17, 20, 21.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements/steps as set forth in each of independent claims 1, 13, 17, 20, and 21 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nardozzi et al. and Jebens et al.

Therefore, each of independent claims 1, 13, 17, 20, and 21 is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 5, 10, 14, 18, and 19 have been amended to place them in better form, and dependent claim 22 has been added to set forth additional novel features of the present invention.

For example, added dependent claim 22 recites the order terminal is a personal computer connectable to the network and owned by the user for placing the print order.

The Examiner asserts that ordering apparatus/remote kiosks 10 of Nardozzi et al. teach the order terminal of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that this is not the case. Nardozzi et al. fails to suggest the subject matter of dependent claim 22.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

Marc S. Weiner
Reg. No. 32,181
P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

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